

DESCRIPTION OF TWO NEW BIRDS FROM THE TIMOR GROUP OF ISLANDS.

BY C. E. HELLMAYR.

Dicaeum hanieli sp. nov.

♂ ad. Head above, back, upper wing- and tail-coverts black, strongly glossed with metallic blue; quills blackish, exteriorly edged with steel blue; rectrices metallic bluish black. Sides of the head sooty black; chin, throat, and foreneck creamy white; chest bright scarlet, the basal portion of the feathers white; remainder of under parts creamy white, a narrow blackish stripe along the middle of the breast; axillaries and under wing-coverts snowy white; quills with a narrow, whitish margin along inner web. "Iris dark brown, feet and bill black." Wing $56\frac{1}{2}$; tail 32; bill 9; tarsus 14 mm.

Type in the Zoological Museum, Munich, No. 11. 2422, ♂ ad. Bonleo, Timor, 3000 ft., June 8, 1911. Collected by C. B. Haniel, Esq., No. 233.

Obs. This new Flower-picker, of which unfortunately but a single adult male was obtained in the mountainous interior of the island of Timor, appears to be most nearly allied to *D. sanguinolentum* Temm., from Java. It differs, however, by its much larger size,* quite differently shaped bill, and several colour-characters. The upper parts are glossed with metallic blue instead of bright purplish blue; the throat and foreneck as well as the belly are pale creamy white instead of deep buffy yellow: the red of the chest is less extended, and of a clearer, more scarlet tinge; the blackish stripe in the middle of the breast much more restricted, also duller in hue; the dark slaty olive colour of the flanks, so conspicuous a feature in *D. sanguinolentum*, is altogether absent in the new bird. In the Javan species the malar region and sides of the throat are sooty black like the ear coverts, and the middle of the throat only is deep buffy yellow, whereas *D. hanieli* has the whole throat as well as the foreneck clear creamy white. The most striking difference, however, consists of the shape of the bill. While *D. sanguinolentum* is characterised by an extremely compressed, slender bill (width at base scarcely exceeding 2 to $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm.), the Timor-bird, in that respect, rather resembles the well-known *D. mackloti*, having a thick, blunt beak, which is fully 4 mm. broad at the nostrils, and gradually narrows on its terminal portion, without ending, however, in an acute tip, as is invariably the case in its western ally. The legs and feet, too, are much stronger in the new bird, the tarsus being both longer and thicker.†

* In eight males of *D. sanguinolentum* the length of the wing varies from 47 to 50, that of the tail from 25 to 28 mm.

† This very interesting new species, though agreeing with *Dicaeum sanguinolentum* of Java in the absence of red on the upper tail-coverts and rump, is really more allied to the group of *D. mackloti* and its various subspecies, as it agrees with them in the heavy bill and general coloration, but it differs from all these forms in having the upper tail-coverts and lower rump uniform blue-black, like the entire upperside, and in the entirely creamy white throat.—E. HARTERT.

Neopsittacus iris wetterensis subsp. nov.

Neopsittacus iris (nec Temminck) Hartert, *Nov. Zool.* xi. 1904. p. 194 (Wetter Island).

Adult. Most nearly allied to *N. iris iris*, from Western Timor, but easily distinguishable by its larger size, longer as well as more robust bill, and by having the cheeks and malar region deep grass-green instead of light yellowish grey. Wing 123—126; tail 80—85; bill 17—18 mm.

Type in the Tring Museum; ♂ ad., Wetter Island, September 18, 1902. Collected by Heinrich Kühn, No. 02918.

Hab. Island of Wetter, north-east of Timor.

Obs. When describing the large collections formed by the late Heinrich Kühn on the South-west Islands, Dr. E. Hartert quite correctly pointed out the differences between *N. i. rubripileum*, of Eastern Timor, and the birds from Wetter, but owing to lack of material of the typical form the latter were referred to *N. iris*. The Zoological Museum of Munich having recently received ten specimens of the true *N. iris* from a place called Lelogama in Western (Dutch) Timor, the distinctness of the Wetter form became at once apparent. While agreeing with *N. i. iris* in the reddish-violet hue of the ear-coverts and in the bluish or lilac wash on the pileum, *N. iris wetterensis* is very much larger, and the sides of the head are deeper and more grass-green. *N. iris rubripileum* Salvad., from Eastern Timor, may be distinguished by its smaller size, uniform red upper part of the head, and more bluish ear-coverts. There are thus three races:

(a) *N. iris iris* (Temm.). Western Timor. Smaller: wing 114—118; tail 74—79; bill 15—16½ mm. Pileum washed with purplish blue or lilac; ear patch reddish violet; sides of the head light yellowish green.

(b) *N. iris rubripileum* Salvad. Eastern Timor (Deli, Atapupu, Filaran, etc.). Wing 113—117; tail 72—76; bill 15—16 mm. Pileum uniform red, or very slightly tinged with greenish on posterior portion; ear-coverts violet blue; sides of head light yellowish green.

(c) *N. iris wetterensis* Hellm. Wetter Island. Larger: wing 123—126; tail 80—85; bill 17—18 mm. Coloration as in *N. i. iris*, but sides of head darker and more grass-green.
